

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 were presented. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 15, 18 and 19 are amended, and claim 11 is canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1-10 and 12-20 are now pending.

Specification Objection

The specification is objected to for a misspelling of "flash" in paragraph 36. The specification is amended to correct this spelling error.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Shibata (USPN 5,909,289) ("Shibata '289") in view of Shibata (USPN 5,757,911) ("Shibata '911"). In response, independent claims 1, 3, 5, 15, and 19 are amended to clearly distinguish over Shibata '289 in view of Shibata '911.

Shibata '289 transmits information (image data) received by facsimile to a computer in normal (ordinary) operating mode (without switching to the PC-FAX mode) by using the confidential transmitting function. See Shibata '289, Col. 3, lines 19-39. More specifically, a PC transmitting number is registered as a confidential box number. See Shibata '289, Col. 3, lines 40-48. In the confidential transmission, if the confidential box number selected by the sender is the PC transmitting number and a password is received by the facsimile apparatus from the computer, then the information (image data) is transmitted to the PC. See Shibata '289, Col. 3, lines 32-37.

Shibata '289 does not disclose or suggest first notifying the computer when a confidential transmission has been received by the facsimile apparatus, and then sending the confidential content to the computer only after when it receives a demand to send the content from the computer. Rather, Shibata '289 either stores the received confidential transmission in a "confidential box" (col. 4. lines 23-25) or, if a confidential box number for PC transmission is designated, immediately sends

the received data to the computer (col. 4, lines 26-3). There is no teaching or suggestion in Shibata '289 that the facsimile apparatus first notifies the computer of a confidential reception, and then waits for a demand to send the confidential information.

Each of independent claims 1, 3, 5, 15, and 19 to require that a notification be sent from the facsimile apparatus to the computer after confidential content is received, *and* that the confidential content be sent to the computer only after the facsimile apparatus has received from the computer a demand to send the confidential content. As discussed above, there is no disclosure or suggestion of such features in Shibata '289.

Shibata '911 does not remedy the deficiencies of Shibata '289. Shibata '911 describes a data receiving process between a transmitter facsimile machine and a receiver facsimile machine. The receiver facsimile machine stores a table of secret encryption keys corresponding to various transmitter machines ("table numbers"). If an encrypted communication is received from a particular transmitter facsimile machine, the receiver facsimile machine checks to see if it has a secret key stored in the table corresponding to that particular transmitter machine. If there is a corresponding secret key, the transmitter facsimile machine decodes and prints the facsimile communication. If there is no corresponding secret key, the transmitter facsimile machine stores the encrypted data and prints a report indicating the storage of encrypted data. The recipient user can then obtain the secret key from the transmitter "by asking the transmitter about it" (col. 6, lines 1-4) and input the secret key to the receiver facsimile machine, which will then decode and print the communication.

Shibata '911 contains no disclosure or suggestion of applicant's notification and demand scheme for transmitting confidential facsimile data from a recipient facsimile machine to a computer, and therefore fails to remedy the deficiencies of Shibata '289 in that regard. *Moreover*, applicant's claims recite a common key encryption/decryption scheme based on peculiar information of the facsimile

machine and destination computer. Thus, both the recipient facsimile apparatus and destination computer can generate a common key for both encryption and decryption, based on peculiar (ID) information of itself and the other, without any reliance on secret keys provided in advance. This differs from the decryption scheme of Shibata '911, which relies solely on a table of *secret keys* obtained in advance from each transmitter (or obtained thereafter after decryption fails).

Since Shibata '289 and Shibata '911 do not teach or suggest each and every element of claims 1, 3, 5, 15, and 19, they cannot render obvious those claims or claims dependent thereon. The rejections should be withdrawn.

Additional amendments

Minor amendments are made to certain dependent claims. Features of claims 7 and 9 that were incorporated into base claim 5 are deleted. Claim 11 was wholly incorporated into base claim 5 and is canceled. Claim 12 is amended to depend from claim 9. Claim 18 is amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

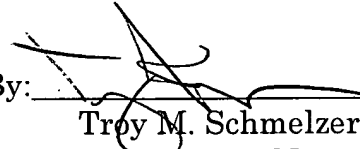
Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in form for allowance. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: _____


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